

unlicensed gun, provided the Forest Guard was given the skin and skull of the tiger. This was gladly agreed to by the poacher who had no idea that the tiger was a notified man-eater, with a reward of Rs. 300 on its head. The F. G. then proceeded to claim the reward, producing the skin and skull in the local Katchery together with a wonderful story of how he had killed the tiger single handed sitting up for it over a jungle path. The reward was about to be paid when the watcher learned that the F.G. intended to give him a mere pittance of the total. So the watcher then 'blew the gaff'. The only party to benefit was an unkind Government who, while pardoning the poacher for his activities, confiscated his gun and paid out no reward—the F.G. being sacked, and the tiger's skin and skull retained in the Katchery.

In more recent times, two years ago in fact, a tiger killed four or five people at the western foot of the Billigirirangans (Mysore District) and was finally shot by officials. Earlier this year a tiger killed three persons in the Talavadi firka, Gobichetty-palayam Taluk, and was finally shot in Mysore territory.

The foregoing still does not explain why there are fewer man-eaters in South India—but I think the answer possibly lies in a combination of circumstances. Continued existence of man-eaters in an area where both game animals and cattle exist in insufficient numbers, and where tiger are forced to remain instead of emigrating to more fruitful parts—as in the case of Ganjam for example. Sanderson's description of the Honganur (Mysore District) man-eating tigress (in his 'Thirteen Years among the Wild Beasts of India'), which he finally shot, is an example of the vice picked up by a tigress to provide easy food for her cubs in all probability. It is a recognised fact that the villagers and jungle tribes of South India have not got the 'guts' of those of Central and North India. They are less inclined to stand their ground on the appearance of tiger after their cattle, and in the proximity of a tigress with cubs. This I think, has resulted in more herdsmen and villagers being killed by tiger, or tigresses (so attaining an inherited taste for humans), in the Central and Northern parts of India.

HÖNNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
VIA. MYSORE,
13th December 1945.

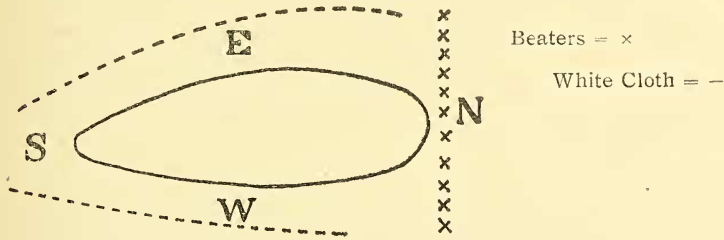
R. C. MORRIS.

2.—MAN-EATERS IN THE DARRANG DISTRICT, ASSAM

During the past two or three years nearly 50 people have been killed and eaten in this district. A kill would take place and when next heard of, the tiger would be a distance of nearly 10 miles away making it very difficult to bring the animal or (animals) as turned out to be, to bag.

A man was killed one evening and the next morning the villagers reported that the tiger was in their *bari*. On arrival at

the village, just off a main road—the men pointed to a small hedge of thatch and scrub jungle four feet wide and about the same in height. On approaching to within six feet I saw a tiger crouching. The tiger turned out to be an old emaciated male, 8' 10" in length,—blind in one eye and covered in old bullet and *dao* wounds. For a time killings ceased, but after a period of three months or so a man was reported killed. A few days afterwards villagers from near where the killing took place reported they had a tiger surrounded in a patch of jungle 5 or 6 acres in area. I lined the east and west side of the jungle with strips of white cloth put a line of drummers and beaters at the north end and waited in the neck at the south end.



Nothing happened until the beaters were half way through, then the tigress broke to the west, saw the white cloth, and entered the jungle again, after a short time it broke east then turned back into the jungle. When the beaters reached within 10 to 15 yards of the south end the tigress broke cover and came roaring towards me, when she was bowled over. A tigress in fair condition with L.G. wounds in her shoulder and blind in one eye!!!

A short time afterwards I was out on an elephant near where previous killings had taken place and came on a tigress which, after shooting, was found to be an eight feet old emaciated tigress, also blind in one eye.

No killings have taken place for 3 or 4 months and it looks as if the last of the man-eaters is accounted for.

The extraordinary thing is the three tigers being blind in one eye.

Have any of your readers heard of a similar case.

THE BORPUKHURIE TEA COMPANY, LTD.,
 MIJIKAJAN P.O. & T.O.,
 DISTRICT DARRANG, ASSAM,
 27th October 1945.

D. G. MESTON.

3.—DEATH OF A PANTHER ON A TIGER'S KILL.

On 30-3-33 I wrote a description of a tiger pouncing on a dead panther (which I had shot) on discovering it along-side his kill.